Nova Scotia Environment
2011-2012 Statement of Mandate

NOVA SCOTIA
Environment

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Message from the Minister and Deputy Minister of Environment

We are pleased to present a Statement of Mandate for Nova Scotia Environment for 2011-2012 that contributes to the government's core priorities in the upcoming year.

The department's mandate reflects our guiding pieces of legislation: the *Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act;* the *Environment Act*; the *Wilderness Areas Protection Act;* the *Special Places Protection Act*; the *Water Resources Protection Act;* the *Anti-Idling Act;* the *Non-essential Pesticides Control Act* and the *Voluntary Carbon Emissions Offset Fund Act.*

We collaborate with other departments and governments, as well as a broad range of stakeholders, to deliver programs and services while striving to improve the health of Nova Scotians, create good jobs and grow the economy in an environmentally sustainable way.

Nova Scotia Environment is now in its third year as a stand alone department. Whether it's through our comprehensive water strategy *Water for Life*, or promoting the reduction of unnecessary idling, the department remains guided by our vision of a healthy, well-managed environment for all Nova Scotians that supports prosperous communities.

In 2011-2012 we will continue to deliver on commitments established through documents such as the *Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act* and the *Climate Change Action Plan*. The department remains committed to improving our laws and regulations, showing clear progress in our goals, and helping Nova Scotians comply with our regulations.

During the upcoming year, we look forward to continuing the important work of making our environment cleaner and healthier: now and for future generations.

Honourable Sterling Belliveau
Minister of Environment

Sara Jane Snook
Deputy Minister of Environment

1. Mandate/Mission/Vision

Mandate

The mandate of Nova Scotia Environment is to:

- support and promote the protection, enhancement, and prudent use of the environment (*Environment Act*);
- provide for the establishment, management, protection and use of wilderness areas (*Wilderness Areas Protection Act*);
- provide for the preservation, protection, and study of ecological sites which are considered important parts of the natural heritage of the Province and promote understanding and appreciation of same among the people of the Province (*Special Places Protection Act*);
- conserve and allocate water resources to ensure long-term self-sufficiency and utilization to the greatest benefit of the population and ecosystem (*Water Resources Protection Act*);
- promote the interconnections between the health of the economy, the environment and the people of the Province and promote the Province's environmental assets as essential to the long-term prosperity of the Province (*Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act*);
- promote the reduction of unnecessary idling (*Anti-idling Act*);
- reduce human and environmental exposure to non-essential pesticides (*Non-essential Pesticides Control Act*); and
- provide incentives to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions and secure reductions of greenhouse-gas emissions (*Voluntary Carbon Emissions Offset Fund Act*).

Vision

Nova Scotia's environment is healthy, well-managed, and supports prosperous communities.

Mission

Nova Scotia Environment leads the way to ensure that our environment is valued, protected, and enhanced in partnerships with all Nova Scotians.

2. Government Priorities

Make health care better for you and your family

Nova Scotia Environment has a mandate to ensure environmental protection, which ultimately impacts human health across the province. The department's legislation, regulations and policies are aimed at improving and sustaining human health. Sustainable environmental management is closely connected to healthy communities and a healthier population.

Inspectors with the department work in communities around the province ensuring regulations are upheld, many of which have a direct impact on human health. Our regulations ensure such things as safe public drinking water supplies, good air quality and good management of a range of other activities. In addition to this regulatory work, the department is proactively adopting legislation and policies that will positively impact human health in the future, including the *Anti-idling Act*, *Non-Essential Pesticides Control Act* and *Water for Life* – the province's comprehensive water strategy.

Create good jobs and grow the economy

Nova Scotia Environment is closely linked to economic outcomes through the *Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act* (EGSPA). Through twenty-one targets, EGSPA showcases the interconnectedness of the environment and economy. The overall long-term objective of EGSPA is to integrate environmental sustainability and economic prosperity. To meet this objective, a specific focus is placed on demonstrating international leadership by having one of the cleanest and most sustainable environments in the world by the year 2020, while improving the Province's economic performance to a level that is equal to or above the Canadian average by the same year.

Get back to balance and ensure government lives within its means

Nova Scotia Environment is committed to ensuring environmental protection through efficient legislation, regulations and policies. As such, the department is reviewing its legislation, regulations and policies, while delivering programs that are cost effective. Those who work with the public and these documents on a daily basis will provide input as to how to streamline processes to make them more efficient, and cost effective, while still maintaining high quality environmental protection.

3. Performance Measures

MANDATE: ENVIRONMENT ACT					
OUTCOME	**MEASURE**	**DATA – BASE YEAR**	**TARGET**	**TRENDS**	**STRATEGIC ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE TARGET**
Clean air	Annual total sulphur dioxide (SO_2) air emissions (**tonnes**) in the province	**1995 cap 189,000**	To maintain total provincial SO_2 emissions below the 2005 cap of 141,750 tonnes, and achieve a 25% reduction in SO_2 emissions from 2001 levels, from facilities emitting > 90 t/yr., by 2010. **2005 cap 141,750** Achieve total provincial emissions no greater than 119,070 tonnes by 2015, and no greater than 70,875 tonnes by 2020 (62.5% less than the 1995 provincial cap) **2015 cap 119,070 2020 cap 70,875**	**164,000 (2001)** 154,000 (2002) 161,000 (2003) 161,000 (2004) 126,500 (2005) 126,281 (2006) 124,300 (2008) Data not yet available for 2009	- Regulations targeted at Nova Scotia Power (see next cell); - implementation of sulphur reduction plans prepared by emitters of > 90 tonnes/annum of SO_2; - in 2005, sulphur content of heavy fuel oil capped at 2.2% by mass, and 2.0% on an annual basis; - and further actions as described in the Climate Change Action Plan
	Annual total sulphur dioxide (SO_2) emitted (**tonnes**) to the air by Nova Scotia Power Inc.	**1995 cap 145,000**	Nova Scotia Power Inc. to achieve a 50% reduction in SO_2 emissions from their 1995 cap by 2010 (72,000 tonnes) **2005 cap 108,750 2010 cap 72,500** Nova Scotia Power Inc. to achieve a level of SO_2 emissions no greater than	131,677 (2002) 137,300 (2003) 136,021 (2004) 103,732 (2005) 106,616 (2006) 108,544 (2007) 107,472 (2008) 100,868 (2009)	- Work with NSPI to ensure their emissions are below the regulated cap and that they are still able to meet other emission targets. A report on their emissions will be prepared at the end of the calendar year together with a report on the overall provincial cap

MANDATE: ENVIRONMENT ACT					
OUTCOME	**MEASURE**	**DATA – BASE YEAR**	**TARGET**	**TRENDS**	**STRATEGIC ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE TARGET**
			60,900 tonnes by 2015, and no greater than 36,250 tonnes by 2020 (a full 75% less than their 1995 cap) **2015 cap 60,900 2020 cap 36,250**		
	Annual total mercury air emissions (**kg**) from NSPI's coal-fired electrical power stations	267 (2000)	Maintain the emission cap for NSPI's coal-fired electrical power stations **2005 cap 168 kg 2014 cap 65 kg**	185 (2001) 163 (2002) 158 (2003) 170 (2004) 105 (2005) 162 (2006) 156 (2007) 163 (2008) 140 (2009)	- Work with NSPI to ensure their emissions are below the regulated cap and that they are still able to meet other emission targets. A report on their emissions will be prepared at the end of the calendar year
	Annual total nitrogen oxides (NO_x) emitted (tonnes) to the air by Nova Scotia Power	26,706 (2000)	Nova Scotia Power Inc.'s annual NO_x emissions cap for 2009 is 21,365 tonnes, or 20% less than base year **2009 cap 21,365** Nova Scotia Power Inc. to achieve a level of NO_x emissions no greater than 19,288 tonnes by 2015, and no greater than 14,955 tonnes by 2020 (44% less than base year emissions) **2015 cap 19, 288 2020 cap 14,955**	30, 280 (2002) 32,067 (2003) 33,499 (2004) 32,300 (2005) 28,087 (2006) 25,853 (2007) 21,381 (2008) 17,075 (2009)	-NSPI installed low-NO_x on burner systems at coal-fired stations

MANDATE: ENVIRONMENT ACT					
OUTCOME	**MEASURE**	**DATA – BASE YEAR**	**TARGET**	**TRENDS**	**STRATEGIC ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE TARGET**
Clean drinking water	Percentage of population served by municipal water supplies that meet the health-based criteria for microbiological quality, as stated in the *Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality*, at all times during the calendar year	96.5 (2001)	Annual: Maximize the percentage of population served by municipal water supplies that meet the health-based criteria for microbiological quality Ultimate: All municipal drinking water supplies will meet the Province's treatment standards	96.5 (2002) 95.7 (2003) 98.4 (2004) 98.0 (2005) 98.7 (2006) 98.2 (2007) 98.6 (2008) 99.5 (2009)	- Work with municipalities to achieve full compliance with the drinking water treatment standards - Begin implementation of the Water Resource Management Strategy
Proactive environmental management	Number of environmental home assessments per year	400 (2006-07)	Complete 1000 environmental home assessments per year	1000 (2007-08) 1000 (2008-09) 1000 (2009-2010)	Conduct educational Home Assessments through contracts with community based, non-profit organizations
	Number of septic repairs completed with funding from EHAP	71 (2006-07)	200 septic systems repaired annually	200 (2007-08) 286 (2008-09) 237 (2009-2010) 185 (2010-2011 as of Feb.10/2011)	provide septic system repair/ replacement grants to low income homeowners whose septic systems are failing
Easier for business to comply with our laws and reduce costs to improve competitiveness and compliance	Reduced time (percentage) spent by business on administrative requirements.	Baseline year (2006-07)	20% less time spent by business on administrative requirements by 2010	6.5% (2007-08) 15.5% (2008-09) 16.5% (2009-10)	Department-wide workplan to reduce administrative burden.

MANDATE: WILDERNESS AREAS PROTECTION ACT & SPECIAL PLACES PROTECTION ACT					
OUTCOME	**MEASURE**	**DATA – BASE YEAR**	**TARGET**	**TRENDS**	**STRATEGIC ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE TARGET**
Protected natural areas	Total hectares of land protected through NS Environment program options	287,028 (2001-02)	Annual: Increase the hectares of land under various protection options Ultimate: Protect 12% (663,125 hectares) of Nova Scotia's total land mass by 2015 Total Land Mass Protected 2007 451,016 ~8.2 % 2008 456,160 ~8.3 % 2009 474,800 ~8.6 % 2010 475,400~8.6%	Protected by NSE 287,320 (2002-03) 287,704 (2003-04) 290,137 (2004-05) 300, 314 (2005-06) 301,154 (2006-07) 301,474 (2007-08) 302,224 (2008-09) 320,533 (2009-10) 320,533 (2010-11	- Advance the process for protecting 12% of the total land mass of the province by 2015 by completing stakeholder review and developing a draft protected areas proposal for public consultation. - Designate Five Bridge Lakes Candidate Wilderness Area. - Complete the legal designation of lands associated with the 2007 Bowater land purchase. - Complete the designation of a wilderness area within the Chignecto Crown land study area.

MANDATE: ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS AND SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY ACT					
OUTCOME	**MEASURE**	**DATA – BASE YEAR**	**TARGET**	**TRENDS**	**STRATEGIC ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE TARGET**
Responsible waste management	Annual solid waste disposal rate per capita* (Kg/person), compared with the regional and national disposal rates * Statistics Canada	NS – 416 Atlantic - 569 Canada - 753 (2000)	Maintain the NS disposal rate lower than the national and Atlantic average Achieve a disposal rate of 300 kg/person or lower by 2015	NS - 416 Atlantic - 564 Canada - 760 (2002) NS - 427 Atlantic - 596 Canada - 772 (2004) NS – 383 Atlantic - 592 Canada – 796 (2006)	- Renew the Solid Waste Resource Management Strategy. Actions for the first year will focus on strengthening regulatory effectiveness and decreasing the amount of Construction and Demolition being disposed.

MANDATE: ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS AND SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY ACT					
OUTCOME	**MEASURE**	**DATA – BASE YEAR**	**TARGET**	**TRENDS**	**STRATEGIC ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE TARGET**
				NS - 378 Atlantic – 568 Canada – 777 (2008)	
Economy-wide GHG emissions must be at least 10% below 1990 levels by 2020 (EGSPA)	Annual provincial GHG emissions, as measured by the national inventory, compared with 1990 emission levels	19.0 M tones (1990)	17. 1 M tonnes or less GHG emissions by 2020	22.7 M tones (2004) 21.6 M tones (2005) 20.0 M tones (2006) 20.6 M tones (2007) 20.8 M tones Electricity sector ghg emissions are declining (from 10.2 MT in 2007 to 9.3 MT in 2010).	- Expand ongoing monitoring and reporting of GHG emissions to include a broader range of GHG sources, including those in the public sector - increase understanding of GHG sinks, sources, and opportunities in the NS forestry and agriculture sectors - develop a legislative approach to GHG management, building on current electricity regulations - complete commitments of the 2009 Climate Change Action Plan
	Ambient fine particulate matter (PM2.5 = less than 2.5 microns), measured annually and averaged over 3 consecutive years	HRM: 14 mg/m3 (2003-05)	30 mg/m3 PM2.5 or less within a 24 hour averaging time by 2010	HRM: 14 mg/m3 (2004-06) 16 mg/m3 (2005-07) 15 mg/m3 (2006-08) 13mg/m3 (2007-09)	Meet the CWS for particulate matter

MANDATE: ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS AND SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY ACT					
OUTCOME	**MEASURE**	**DATA – BASE YEAR**	**TARGET**	**TRENDS**	**STRATEGIC ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE TARGET**
	Ambient ground level ozone, averaged over 3 years	HRM: 57ppb (2000-02) CBRM: 49ppb (2000-02)	65 ppb ground ozone or less, with 8 hour averaging, by 2010	HRM: 53ppb (2001-03) 51ppb (2002-04) 46ppb (2003-05) 48ppb (2004-06) 47ppb (2005-07) 51ppb (2006-08) 51ppb (2007-09) CBRM: 49ppb (2001-03) 46ppb (2002-04) 46ppb (2003-05) 48ppb (2004-06) 50ppb (2005-07) 55ppb (2006-08) 55ppb (2007-09)	Meet the CWS for ozone
	% of wastewater treatment facilities that provide at least primary treatment	90% (2009)	100% of wastewater treatment facilities provide at least primary treatment by 2017	90% (2010)	Work with municipalities to implement the Canada-wide Municipal Wastewater Effluent (MWWE) strategy

4. Budget Context

Nova Scotia Environment			
	2010-2011 Estimate	**2010-2011 Forecast**	**2011-2012 Estimate**
Program & Service Area	($thousands)	($thousands)	($thousands)
Gross Departmental Expenses:	52,777	48,195	27,852
Administration	1,031	891	1,046
Policy and Corporate Services	4,373	4,559	4,376
Environmental Monitoring and Compliance	12,177	11,784	12,270
Environmental Science and Program Management	33,023	28,447	7,477
Environment and Sustainable Prosperity	651	818	726
Climate Change Directorate	1,522	1,696	1,687
Total Gross Departmental Expenses	52,777	48,195	27,582
Additional Information:			
Ordinary Revenues, Fees and Recoveries	5,779	6,201	5,982
TCA Purchase Requirements	1,500	1,500	1,500
Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs)	278	263.4	275.8